

THOMAS G. TANCREDO

6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606

January 25, 2007

The Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Millender-McDonald,

I am writing to ask that you consider a rule change that would prohibit the formation of caucuses based entirely on race or ethnicity.

It is utterly hypocritical for Congress to extol the virtues of a color-blind society while officially sanctioning caucuses that are based on race and restrict their membership based on race. I believe – as I think most Americans do – that the best way to remedy the ills of discrimination is to abolish, not sanction, organizations that maintain racially exclusive membership policies.

Justice John Marshall Harlan, in his dissent to the infamous *Plessy v. Ferguson* ‘separate but equal’ decision wrote, “Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens.” His words are as true today as they were when he penned them more than a century ago – and if we are serious about achieving the goal of a color-blind society, Congress should lead by example and end these divisive race-based caucuses.

Race is something that people have no control over, and should not be a prerequisite for any organizations membership. It is disgraceful that more than a half-century after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, an organization sanctioned by the U.S. Congress maintains a policy of racial exclusivity.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Tancredo".

Tom Tancredo, M.C.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1130 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
MAIN: (202) 225-7882
FAX: (202) 226-4623

DISTRICT OFFICE:

6099 SOUTH QUEBEC STREET
SUITE 200
CENTENNIAL, CO 80111-4547
MAIN: (720) 283-9772
FAX: (720) 283-9776

LITTLETON OFFICE:

1800 WEST LITTLETON BOULEVARD
LITTLETON, CO 80120-2021
MAIN: (720) 283-7575
SENIORS: (720) 283-9026

CASTLE ROCK OFFICE:

240 WILCOX STREET, SUITE 111
CASTLE ROCK, CO 80104-2439
MAIN: (303) 688-3430
FAX: (303) 688-3524